

**Meeting Minutes of
The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health
1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2011**

The Governor's Council on Behavioral Health met at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, in Barry Hall's Conference Room 126, 14 Harrington Road, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members Present: Rich Leclerc, Chair, Linda Bryan, Mark Fields, Joseph Le, Bruce Long, Peter Mendoza, Neil Corkery, Reed Cosper and Elizabeth Earls.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Sandra Woods, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF); Roberta Richmond, Department of Corrections (DOC), Denise Achin and Alice Woods, Department of Education; Deb Florio, Department of Human Services (DHS), and Charles Williams, Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH)

Guests: Michelle Branch, Coleen Caron, Kathryn Champagne, Joyce Cushman, Sara Dinklage, Ranny Dougherty, Lisa Lunt and Gina Rivera

Staff: James Dealy and Lisa Stevens

Once a quorum was established, the Chair, Richard Leclerc, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. After introductions were conducted, Richard Leclerc entertained a motion to accept the minutes of February 10, 2011. Elizabeth Earls motioned to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mark Fields. Richard Leclerc called for a vote to approve the minutes, all were in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

SEOW Milestones Report: Charles gave a brief overview of the SEOW workgroup. He introduced Coleen Caron, co-chair of this workgroup, who presented this report. A Rhode Island Statewide Epidemiological Outcome Workgroup Charter was handed out as ***Attachment I***. Coleen focused on the mission and objectives. The mission is to institutionalize state and community data-driven planning and decision making based on data about the magnitude and distribution of substance use, abuse and consequences, and mental illness across the state. This is a surveillance project that looks at both state and community levels. It examines which populations are most effected by these indicators as well as their severity. The indicators need to be looked at both on the micro and macro level, looking not just at the individuals but at the systems that are in place on the community level and statewide.

Identifying the most meaningful indicators is important to developing a feasible, integrated system. The SEOW has been active for three years, which has given baseline data on community profiles and disparities. However, the previous funding source looked only at youth 21 and under and only at the uses and consequences. The new funding requires a broader focus.

One of the key objectives, based on these data, is to develop and communicate state and community level epidemiological profiles to guide prevention, treatment and recovery services and to inform the development of policy for the RI healthcare system.

There is representation from many different agencies, departments and stakeholders in this workgroup and the workgroup has the capacity for further growth.

Presently there are permanent committees established and ad hoc committees will be established as needed.

The timeline shown in this report is the response to the requirements of the application for funding. Charles handed out ***Attachment II***, the deliverables information for this current year which matches up to the timeline included in the charter.

The overall objective is to look at not just the individual but the community and state level indicators to see where resources can be focusing which allow us to be more strategic and effective on our interventions. An enhancement of the SEOW is adding the ability to look across data systems so we can integrate more information and take a new look at state and community data. Previously, only service data had been collected. This new program includes needs data, potentially illuminating a host of needs that may not be currently addressed. The next SEOW report to the Council will be in either May or June of this year.

The 2009 community profiles can be obtained from the Department's website www.bhddh.gov.

Transitional Youth: Denise Achin reported. The last meeting's presentation with community agencies will be followed up at the next meeting with a presentation on the FCCPs, so as to find out more about wrap around systems of services for youth. Next meeting's date is in the process of being finalized with DCYF and the FCCP program directors.

ROSC: This topic is tabled until the next meeting.

Annual Report of the Governor's Council: Rich Leclerc asked for reactions/recommendations of the draft of the annual report (***Attachment III***). There were two minor changes requested: the first to change the date of the report to the current date, and the second to correct a typo in the last sentence of the third page. Motion to approve was made by Neil and Joseph seconded. There was no further discussion and all were in favor. The report was approved and will be sent as corrected.

Updates from DHS: Deb Florio presented. Health reform has been a priority for DHS, which has been working aggressively to meet the benchmarks associated with eligibility reform for both Medicaid and the exchange. Consulting resources for business processes is out for procurement to establish how Medicaid will integrate with the exchange so that it is able to work with individuals and families and to help guide them to the most appropriate health insurance for their families.

"Money Follows the Person" is a federal funding opportunity to help people in the state who are leaving an institution to establish themselves into the community. Phase I is geared to disabled adults and the elderly. Phase II includes children with behavioral health challenges. DHS will be working collaboratively with its sister agencies with this grant.

The Ford Foundation has awarded a modernization grant to help DHS to align human services programs so families are not constantly reapplying for services.

Deb noted that DHS is regularly looking for funding opportunities to apply for.

Updates from BHDDH: Charles Williams presented. A facility status bill and an employment bill geared to disabled individuals have been introduced and both have the approval of the Governor's Office.

Twenty-two proposals were received in response to an RFP for marihuana prevention services in high schools.

A waiver for the maintenance of effort deficiency request to SAMHSA for the Substance Abuse Block Grant has been granted.

Updates from DCYF: Sandy Woods presented. DCYF held a day long meeting of community partners in the FCCP initiative. Over 100 people attended. The objective was to see where we stand and see where we are going with the FCCP operation. A review process for individual FCCPs has been completed. In addition, a statewide report will be created. Sandy will forward these reports to the Council.

The question was posed whether the shift to Medicaid coverage of services that DCYF currently funds in full will cause a future problem for Medicaid. Deb Florio answered that this process will require a change in the Global Waiver which will involve getting authority from CMS. DCYF would be putting in a state match and will have to include that to its budget. This initiative will give DCYF the opportunity to reach out to more children.

Proposed New Council Members Jim Dealy is submitting 5 names to the Governor. The draft letter is with Craig Stenning. The federal requirement is that at least 51% of Council members are neither providers nor state agency representatives. Peter Mendoza, a longtime member in good standing of the Council, announced that some changes in his personal life will require him to resign. On behalf of the Council, Rich thanked him for his years of service.

Old/New Business: Liz Earles stated that the Council of Community Mental Health Organizations and DATA have been hosting regional meetings around the state as an opportunity for the collective membership to meet legislators. Last night Representative Slater was in Providence and spoke about a piece of legislation that is up for hearing today referred to as the 'ban the box' bill. It removes the checkbox stating that one has been convicted of a crime from employment applications, giving formerly incarcerated persons the opportunity to be evaluated based on their skills, rather than disqualified based on their history. RICCMHO and DATA are in support of this bill.

Joyce Cushman spoke about article she read in the Providence Journal on an early cognitive impairment study being done called "Grand Opportunity Study" at Butler Hospital. She gave Jim a copy of the informational materials for him to distribute as an attachment to these minutes.

SAMHSA's peer review of the block grant application was passed out by Jim. It was extremely complimentary toward Rhode Island. See **Attachment IV**

Update from the DOC – Roberta Richmond hopes to post Fred Freidman's (retired) job soon. An RFP is out for substance abuse treatment in the prisons; a contract formally held by Spectrum. She is focusing her energy on prison reentry, trying to make the internal treatment system more effective. Regional reentry councils have been created to bring together people from all of the agencies to

represent the people from the local communities working collaboratively with local police departments, discharge planners and community partners to work on a continuity of case planning from the day of release. This is serving adults coming out of the system, most of whom are under 25 years of age.

Bruce Long brought up the Enforcement of Underage Drinking Law (EUDL) grant, specifically the education component, requesting that this education be provided by BHDDH and not Health. This topic is to be put on next month's agenda.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in Barry Hall room 126.**

Minutes respectfully recorded and written by:

Lisa Stevens
Secretary, Governor's Council on Behavioral Health

Attachment I – SEOW Charter
Attachment II – SEOW Deliverables
Attachment III – Annual Report
Attachment IV – MH Block Grant Review